



# U.S. ARMY GARRISON, ALASKA QUARTERLY UPDATE FOR ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES

September 2005, Issue 5

This is a quarterly update on U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska activities and issues that might be of interest to federally recognized tribes in Alaska.

## Upcoming Revisions to USAG-AK's Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan

U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska (USAG-AK) proposes to update its Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the period of 2007 through 2011. The INRMP supports sustained military readiness, maintains a balanced ecosystem, provides stewardship of natural resources, involves the public and allows the maximum amount of recreational use possible while sustaining the environment.

The majority of military lands in Alaska are withdrawn from Public Domain for military purposes and training. USAG-AK has a federal resource stewardship responsibility to ensure these public lands are maintained for perpetuity and managed properly. The Sikes Act (as amended through 2003), co-authored by Congressman Young, requires USAG-AK to manage withdrawn lands to achieve the proper balance between military needs, the environment, and recreational use. The Sikes Act requires INRMPs for all military installations to be completed at a minimum of every five years. USAG-AK completed the first INRMP in 1998 and implemented the first update in 2002. The INRMP is considered a federal facilities compliance agreement, as the Sikes Act also requires that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game be signatory partners. The U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management is also a signatory

partner to the INRMP because of their responsibilities for withdrawn Public Domain Land.

The primary purpose of the proposed INRMP is to establish policies, programs and practices that USAG-AK will use to manage both military and nonmilitary use of Army withdrawn training lands in Alaska. The secondary purpose of this INRMP is to guide Army natural resources managers and personnel in their decision-making actions regarding management of military lands in Alaska and the implementation of the proposed natural resource projects within the INRMP. Furthermore, a related purpose of the INRMP is to serve as a funding identification document for the management of natural resources and recreation uses on Army lands.

A wide range of goals, objectives, planning resources, inventories, monitoring schemes, and management responsibilities are proposed for the following resources, including soils, wetlands, surface water, forestry, fish and wildlife, endangered species and outdoor recreation. Implementation procedures will be proposed including funding mechanisms, priorities, staffing requirements, planning methods, and command support. Full implementation of the USAG-AK INRMP is required as mitigation by the 1998 Land Withdrawal Environmental Impact Statement

(EIS) and the Military Land Withdrawal Act (PL 106-65) as well as the U.S. Army Alaska Transformation EIS.

Tribal and public participation in the development of the INRMP will be promoted throughout the development of the proposed plan by way of newspaper notices, questionnaires, newsletters, government-to-government consultation, and state and federal agency scoping and review.

Government-to-government consultation will commence in the fall of 2005, to be followed by state and federal agency scoping. A first draft should be available for tribal and agency review by March 2006. General public review of the draft final INRMP in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Delta Junction is planned to occur in May 2006. The final completed INRMP must be in place by October 1, 2006.

## Change of Command Ceremony

Maj. Gen. Charles H. Jacoby Jr. became the 30th commander of U.S. Army Alaska, and deputy commander, U.S. Alaskan Command, in a change of command ceremony at Fort Richardson on Thursday, July 21, 2005.

Jacoby replaced Brig. Gen. James T. Hirai, who has assumed duties as the deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Pacific at Fort Shafter, Hawaii. Hirai had been the senior army commander in Alaska since August 27, 2004.

Jacoby and his wife, Grace, come to Alaska from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, where he was the assistant division commander for support, 25th Infantry Division (Light), to include duty as deputy commanding general for support, Combined Joint Task Force-76 and Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan. The Jacoby's have three sons, Charles,

Victor and Michael.

Jacoby is a 1978 graduate of the United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., holds a master's degree from the University of Michigan and is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, the School of Advanced Military Studies and the National War College.





# Meeting to Discuss Army Alternate Procedures at Tanacross

Staff from the U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska (USAG-AK) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) traveled to the Native Village of Tanacross to hold an informational meeting and consultation regarding the Army Alternate Procedures (AAP) to Section 106 and the Historic Properties Component (HPC) of the Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan (ICRMP) with the Tanacross Village Council (TVC). The meeting at

Tanacross was held on August 24, 2005. TVC had requested a village visit after the meetings held on April 4-5, 2005, in Fairbanks, where COL Donna Boltz had offered USAG-AK visits to tribes to further discuss the AAP. TVC shared their concern that tribes would be left out of the project-by-project review that they are familiar with through Section 106. USAG-AK and ACHP explained that under AAP the tribes and other stakeholders will continue to be

involved in cultural resource decisions on a project-by-project basis through the Army's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. USAG-AK explained that AAP will save time for all parties involved, since tribes and stakeholders will have agreed on the standard operating procedures (SOPs) by signing the HPC. Tribes and stakeholders will have the opportunity to get involved in cultural resource decisions earlier through the NEPA process then in

the past with the Section 106 process, which is typically done after NEPA. TVC suggested that USAG-AK and ACHP provide more training to tribes like the Section 106 training that Valerie Hauser of the ACHP provided in 2003. The ACHP will research the possibility of further training for tribes in Alaska.

USAG-AK truly appreciates the generosity of NVT and thanks them for hosting dinner and the meeting.

## Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Update for the Army in AK

"BRAC" is an acronym that stands for base realignment and closure. It is the process that the Department of Defense (DoD) has previously used to reorganize its base structure to more efficiently and effectively support our forces, increase operational readiness and facilitate new ways of doing business.

The process is governed by law; specifically, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990. The process begins with a threat assessment of the future national security environment, followed by the development of a force structure plan and basing requirements to meet these threats. DoD then applies published selection criteria to determine which installations to recommend for realignment and closure. The Secretary of Defense publishes a report containing the realignment and closure recommendations, forwarding supporting documentation to an independent commission appointed by the president, in consultation with congressional leadership.

The commission has the authority to change the department's recommendations, if it determines that a recommendation deviated from the force structure plan

and/or selection criteria. The commission holds regional meetings to solicit public input prior to making its recommendations. History has shown that the use of an independent commission and public meetings make the process as open and fair as possible. The commission forwards its recommendations to the president for review and approval, who then forwards the recommendations to Congress.

Several of the steps outlined above have already occurred under BRAC 2005. The President has accepted the commission's recommendations and forwarded them to Congress. Congress has 45 legislative days to act on the commission report on an all-or-none basis. After that time, the commission's realignment and closure recommendations become law.

Under the BRAC law, actions to close or realign a base must be initiated within two years of the date the President transmits the BRAC Commission's recommendations report to Congress and must be completed within six years of that same date.

### BRAC Recommendations for the U.S. Army in Alaska:

- The Cold Regions Test Center remains in Alaska while improving efficiency of operations and enhancing personnel safety by moving it's headquarters to Fort Greely.
- Civilian Personnel Operations Centers (CPOC) are consolidated at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, to reduce excess capacity and achieve manpower savings through the elimination of duplicate functions with a personnel reduction of less than 300 people.

**Fort Richardson BRAC Recommendations:** BRAC 2005 has a minimal impact at Fort Richardson. The Army intends to realign Fort Richardson's garrison functions under Elmendorf Air Force Base and transfer CPOC functions to consolidated center at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

- Gains: None.
- Losses:
  - Installation management functions are being combined with Elmendorf Air Force Base.
  - CPOC functions move to Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

**Fort Wainwright BRAC Recommendations:** The Army realigns Fort Wainwright by relocating the Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) headquarters from Fort Wainwright to Fort Greely.

- Gains: None.
- Losses: Cold Regions Test Center headquarters to Fort Greely.

### Fort Greely BRAC Recommendations:

- Gains: CRTC headquarters from Fort Wainwright.
- Losses: None.



# Student from Grayling Participates in USAG-AK's 2005 Cultural Resources Fieldwork

During the 2005 summer field season, the USAG-AK Cultural Resources program was able to hire one temporary archaeological field technician, for a period of five weeks, to work with the crew of four archaeologists hired for the entire summer season. The goal of this temporary hire was to give a young student the opportunity to get hands-on learning about the field of archaeology and to see first-hand how the USAG-AK Cultural Resources program works. The student chosen for the position, Johanna Deacon, had a chance to work in the field with professional archaeologists during the months of July and August.

Johanna's work as part of the Fort Wainwright archaeological survey crew took her to Delta Junction for a period of two weeks to complete projects out in the Donnelly Training Area. She also had a chance to participate in archaeological surveys within the Fort Wainwright cantonment and training areas, including survey and a site evaluation in the

Yukon Training Area. The crew worked four ten-hour days each week, walked many kilometers through the woods, and dug dozens of shovel test pits as part of their work. Thanks to their efforts, many more acres of USAG-AK's training lands have been inventoried for the presence of cultural resources.

USAG-AK's Cultural Resources program hopes to be able to hire additional archaeological technicians from the surrounding communities to work as part of the summer archaeological field crews. Job announcements for such positions will be posted at <http://www.cemml.colostate.edu/Jobs/cemmljob.htm>. For more information please contact Ms. Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Archaeologist, at 907-353-3002.



The 2005 Fort Wainwright archaeology field crew (L to R: Johanna Deacon, Jim Devereaux, Kristen Klein, Bill Finch and Cyrena Udem).



Johanna Deacon screens material from a shovel test pit.

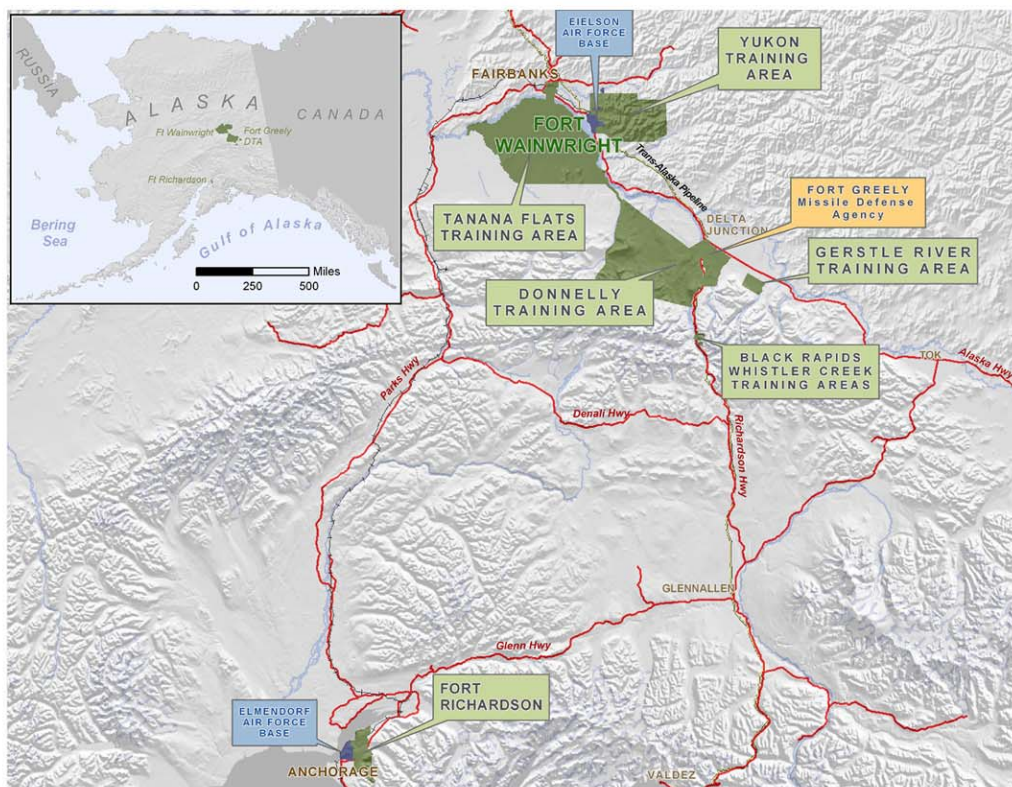
Here's what Johanna had to say about her experience:

*My name is Johanna Deacon and I am 18 years old. I live in Grayling, Alaska, a little village on the Yukon River. I found out about the job from my teacher. [Our teachers] are always finding different kinds of jobs on the Internet and telling the class about them. When I was with the*

*other crew members we did surveys, which is walking through the woods looking for archaeological sites and digging a lot of shovel test pits. I learned how to use a GPS and how to coordinate different places on the map. [Now] I am going to go back to Grayling to finish high school. When I am done with high school I am going to try out Job Corps.*



Johanna Deacon and Bill Finch excavating a shovel test pit.





## Introducing Jennifer Elsen, USAG-AK's New Cultural Resource Manager

The U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska (USAG-AK) welcomes Jennifer Elsen as the new cultural resources manager. Jennifer joined USAG-AK in August, her first time ever visiting Alaska. Born and raised in Long Beach, California, Jennifer moved to Utah in 1998 for graduate school and made Utah her home for the past seven years. She earned a masters degree in historical archaeology from Brigham Young University. Her thesis involved analyzing historical ceramics recovered from Camp Floyd, a nineteenth century Army post south of Salt Lake City.

Though new to the Army, Jennifer brings with her several years experience in cultural resource management, previously working for private environmental consulting firms and academic research institutions. Her background has focused primarily on the Great Basin region with particular emphasis on early Utah history and western American history. In environmental consulting, Jennifer has had the opportunity to work on a variety of projects, including oil and gas development, transportation, military installation, and utilities projects, as well as environmental impact statements and federal resource management plans. Jennifer is also a member of the Register of Professional Archaeologists and actively presents papers at professional conferences. She is currently working on a second masters degree in Environmental Policy and Management from the University of Denver.

While living in Utah, Jennifer was very active in her community, volunteering for the Red Cross, local service groups, archaeology and history organizations, including the 2002 Winter Olympics and hopes to be equally as active in Alaska. In her free time, Jennifer is an avid curler and competed in the 2003 Mountain Pacific Regional Championships. She is looking forward to honing her skills at the Anchorage and Fairbanks curling clubs. Maybe someday she will represent Alaska at the U.S. National Championships! Off the ice, Jennifer enjoys snowshoeing, snowboarding, attending concerts and theater events and exploring her new state.



Directorate of Public Works  
ATTN-IMPA-FRA-PWM (A. Shearer)  
724 Postal Service Loop #6500  
Fort Richardson, Alaska 99505-6500